

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 24-33 have been withdrawn from consideration in response to a restriction requirement. Claims 1, 9, 17, and 21 have been amended, and claim 2 has been canceled in this reply. New claim 34 has been added. Claims 1 and 3-34 will therefore be pending upon entry of the above amendments.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 13-20 by the Examiner in the office action.

Claims 1, 3, 8, and 10 have been rejected in the office action under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 3,090,418 (Marak). Claims 1, 4-8, 10-12, and 21-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent no. 4,399,675 (Erdmann).

Claims 2 and 9 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The Examiner has stated that claims 2 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 2 has been canceled in this reply, thus rendering the objection to claim 2 moot.

Claim 1 (the base claim of claim 2) has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 2. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is allowable. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 (and claims 3-8 and 10-12, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested. Withdrawal of the objection to claim 9 (which depends from claim 1) is also respectfully requested.

Claim 21 has been amended to recite an optical sensor mounted within one of the male and female dies. Applicants respectfully submit that Erdmann neither teaches nor suggests an optical sensor mounted *within* one of a male and a female die. Withdrawal of the

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rejection of claim 21 (and claims 22 and 23, which depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is respectfully requested.

New claim 34 has been added to further define the scope of the invention. Support for claim 34 can be found, *inter alia*, at pg. 6, lines 8-14, and Figure 2 of the original application. Claim 34 recites a sensor mounted within at least one of the male and female dies and being responsive to the marking when the marking is located at a predetermined position in relation to the sensor. Applicants respectfully submit that this limitation is neither taught nor suggested by Erdmann or Marak.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely notice of allowance be issued in this case.

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Frank T. Carroll
Registration No. 42,392

Woodcock Washburn LLP
One Liberty Place - 46th Floor
Philadelphia PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-3100
Facsimile: (215) 568-3439